

6. PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

This section summarizes problems (current) and opportunities that were developed during the evaluation for placement of dredged material from the Upper Saginaw River.

6.1 Problems and Current Status

Because of the absence of annual maintenance dredging to keep the river at project depths, ships are forced to light load to transit the river safely. It is anticipated river use by commercial navigation will maintain near present tonnage levels. However, if dredging does not resume, shoaling within the channel will continue, which will force ships to use docking facilities at locations well down stream of their intended destinations, or to seek other ports.

6.2 Opportunities

The opportunity statements presented in this section evolved from evaluating the area resources and problems evident in the development of the Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) for Upper Saginaw River:

- (a) Locate upland site(s) for future (long-term) consideration to place dredged material;
- (b) Evaluate beneficial uses for dredged material.